

# Central Limit Theorem

The central limit theorem relies on the concept of a sampling distribution, which is the probability distribution of a statistic for a large number of samples taken from a population.

Imagining an experiment may help you to understand sampling distributions:

- Suppose that you draw a random sample from a population and calculate a statistic for the sample, such as the mean.
- Now you draw another random sample of the same size, and again calculate the mean.
- You repeat this process many times, and end up with a large number of means, one for each sample.

The distribution of the sample means is an example of a sampling distribution.

The central limit theorem says that the sampling distribution of the mean will always be normally distributed, as long as the sample size is large enough. Regardless of whether the population has a normal, Poisson, binomial, or any other distribution, the sampling distribution of the mean will be normal.

A normal distribution is a symmetrical, bell-shaped distribution, with increasingly fewer observations the further from the center of the distribution.

## Formula

- The mean of the sampling distribution is the mean of the population.

$$\mu_{\bar{x}} = \mu$$

- The standard deviation of the sampling distribution is the standard deviation of the population divided by the square root of the sample size.

$$\sigma_{\bar{x}} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$